

**In the Claims**

Below is a list of current claims with status identifiers.

1 5. (Currently Amended): A method for automatically processing printer errors occurring during printing of a print job in a virtual printer system wherein a virtual printer is configurable with a plurality of physical print engines, comprising the steps of:

segmenting a print job into a defined job stack for each of the plurality of print engines  
of the virtual printing system that will print a defined portion of the print job;

detecting occurrence of an error condition during printing of at least a portion of a the associated defined portion of the print job in one of the print engines in the virtual printer system; and

re-routing the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job not processed by the one print engine to a second print engine in the virtual printer system.

2 6. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of detecting comprises the steps of:

reading an error status signal generated by a print engine;

interrupting the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job in which the error status signal was generated; and

releasing the print engine from the virtual printer system in which the error condition occurred.

3 7. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 5, wherein the step of re-routing comprises the steps of:

defining the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job; and

attaching a separator page to the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job.

*Sub E1*

4. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 3, wherein the step of defining comprises the step of:

5 defining the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job as the unprinted part of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job including the page of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job whereupon the error occurred.

*D*

5 9. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of attaching comprises the steps of:

creating a separator page associated with the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job; and

5 attaching the separator page to the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job.

*D*

10. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of creating a separator page comprises the step of:

designating an additional page to be inserted in the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job following the last page that resulted in generation of an end-of-page signal.

11. (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 10, wherein the step of re-routing comprises the steps of:

reconfiguring the virtual printer system if a second next print engine in the virtual printer system is not available;

5 printing the re-routed remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job; and

assembling the pages of the print job printed after re-routing with the pages of the print job printed before re-routing.

*8* 12. (Currently Amended): An apparatus for automatically processing printer errors occurring during printing of a print job in a virtual printer system wherein a virtual printer is configurable with a plurality of physical print engines, comprising:

5       a job stacking device for segmenting a print job into a defined job stack for each of the plurality of print engines of the virtual printing system that will print a defined portion of the print job;

*5, b, 7*       a detector for detecting occurrence of an error condition during printing of at least a portion of  
a the associated defined portion of the print job in one of the print engines in the virtual printer system;  
and

10       a router for re-routing the remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of  
the print job not processed by the one print engine to a second print engine in the virtual printer system.

*9* 13. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim *1/2*, wherein said detector comprises:

5       a reading device for reading an error status signal generated by a print engine;  
an interrupt device for interrupting said at least a portion of said associated defined  
portion of the print job in which said error status signal was generated; and

5       a device for releasing said print engine from said virtual printer system in which said error  
condition occurred.

*10* 14. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim *1/2*, wherein said router comprises:

5       a remainder determination device for defining said remainder of said at least a portion  
of said associated defined portion of the print job; and

5       an attaching device for attaching a separator page to said remainder of said at least a  
portion of said associated defined portion of the print job.

*11* 15. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim *1/4*, wherein said remainder determination  
device is operable:

to define said remainder of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the  
print job as the unprinted part of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job

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including the page of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job whereupon said error occurred.

12 16. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim 1<sup>4</sup>, wherein said attaching device comprises:  
a separator device for creating a separator page associated with said remainder of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job prior to said attaching device attaching said separator page to said remainder of said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job.

13 17. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim 1<sup>4</sup>, wherein said attaching device comprises:  
means for designating an additional page to be inserted in said at least a portion of said associated defined portion of the print job following the last page that resulted in generation of an end-of-page signal.

14 18. (Currently Amended): The apparatus of Claim 1<sup>2</sup>, wherein said router comprises:  
a configuring device for reconfiguring said virtual printer system if a second next print engine in said virtual printer system is not available;  
a printer for printing said re-routed remainder of the at least a portion of the associated defined portion of the print job; and  
a collator for assembling said pages of said print job printed afer after re-routing with said pages of said print job printed before re-routing.